
John Baptiste Ford.

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PITTSBURG, Penn., May 1.—John Baptiste Ford, father of the plate glass industry in this country, and the first to pipe natural gas into Pittsburg, died yesterday at Creighton, Penn. Born in Darville, Ky., Nov. 17, 1811, he accumulated a fortune making boxes and building boats in Indiana during the civil war. He lost everything when seventy years of age.

He and his two sons soon after erected a plate glass factory at Tarentum, Penn., with \$17,000 which they received for a glass patent, and amassed another fortune. They entered the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company as owners of about \$2,500,000 of stock. They built the Ford City Plate Glass Works on the Allegheny River, the largest of its kind in the world. Failing to agree with other Directors of the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, they sold out about 1886. They soon after erected the Ford plate glass plant at Toledo, Ohio, and built the Alkali plant at Wyandotte, Mich., for which they were offered \$6,000,000. Mr. Ford was noted for his philanthropy, and grateful employes recently erected a statue to him at Ford City, which he founded.

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